

Salvaging subsPort Colborne company to recycle ships
Page 3**Dog dilemma**Fate of canines in court's hands
Page 7**Hanging high**Banners to display Port's character
Page 9**Flying high**Model airplanes take to the sky
Page 12

Rates need lowering?

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INPORTNEWS



SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 33 VOLUME 15

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca**CRIME**

Crimes robbed on canal trail

InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — Two teenagers were robbed by a group of eight on the Welland Canals Parkway Trail late last Friday.

Niagara Regional Police that at about 11:15 p.m. the two males were walking along the east portion of the trail, just north of the Clarence St. bridge near Fraser St.

see **ROBBERY** | page 2**SUSPECT: Police search for man
Jogger assaulted**

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Police are searching for a man who assaulted a female jogger within Sherkston Shores Resort last Wednesday.

see **JOGGER** | page 2**HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Work on centre is on schedule**

Ground breaks for new facility

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele, chair of the Health and Wellness Centre Committee, speaks about the importance of the facility for the community.

PORT COLBORNE— There's only mounds of dirt, concrete blocks and twisted metal currently at the Thomas A. Laman Sports Complex.

But in more than a year's time, the site will be the home for a \$31-million facility that will house two NHL sized rinks, an aquatic centre, jogging track, gymnasium and other amenities that will benefit residents and visitors alike.

Last week, Port Colborne officials were on hand at the site to officially turn sod on the construction of the health and wellness centre.

Construction unofficially began on the facility a few weeks prior to the ceremony. By the time the opening came, the foundations of the 145,000-square-foot facility had already been set and the base for the swimming pool was being dug.

"On the west end of the facility we will have two rinks in a 300 seat arena," said Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele, who chairs the health and wellness centre committee.

see **CONSTRUCTION** | page 2

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■ CONSTRUCTION

Sports complex generating buzz in Port Colborne

FROM PAGE 1

"Tying in with the bocce courts will be a common area. It's all coming together."

Watching the construction was Mayor Vance Badawey. Admiring the work being done, the mayor said he was impressed by how swiftly the process is going.

"It's going quite fast. It's on schedule," Badawey said.

Badawey, along with Steele, St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra, St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley and Tom Lannan, the city's former parks and recreation director, tossed the soil to mark the special occasion.

Badawey said there was many decades of hard works that made this facility possible, ensuring Port Colborne offers more tomorrow than it does currently.

"Ensuring that our community is better in the future than the way we found it,"

Badawey said. "The investments under way throughout our city proves that a community that works together, walks together forever. OR Both provincial and federal levels of government have contributed about \$7 million each to the construction of the facility."

Dykstra said the facility not only benefits the community, but the region as a whole. With amenities such as the indoor track, pool and gym said the centre will enhance the quality of life in Port Colborne.

"It's something we can be proud of," Dykstra said. "Your commitment to your community will stay close when you lead by example."

Bradley said the centre will be one of the hidden gems people will be aware of. Bradley said it will complement Port Colborne as a great place to live, work and play.

"Port Colborne is a pas-

sonate community and that's one of its strengths," Bradley said. "The investment to develop this multipurpose facility will lead to creating healthy lifestyles. It will be the place where people can hone their talents and be active."

Steele said one of the projects for council during the 1990s was to move forward in Port Colborne with recreational facilities. With the arenas and pool in different areas of the municipality it was hard to host a major event.

In the 2000s, Steele said council "dusted off the old reports" and worked hard in making the new facility a reality.

"We plan to host a 60-team hockey tournament. It will be one of the first events in the facility," said Steele, who is also the president of Port Colborne Minor Hockey Association.



EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

From left, Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele, Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey, St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley, St. Catharines MPP Rick Dykstra and Tom Lannan, the city's former director of parks and recreation, break ground on construction of the new health and wellness centre.

■ JOGGER

Woman escapes from attacker

FROM PAGE 1

The victim, who has been identified by police as in her 40s, was jogging in the area of the Wyldewood Rd. access at about 3 p.m. when a lone male surprised her.

He grabbed the woman by the arm and started to pull her, but she was able to break free and seek assistance from other visitors within the resort.

She was a guest at the resort, visiting from outside

the Niagara region, said Det. Sgt. Deb Smart.

Niagara Regional Police, including officers from Port Colborne, Welland, Fort Erie, as well as members of the K9 and traffic units, were on scene for several hours canvassing the area, said Sgt. David Weeks. They worked to search for the suspect and inform guests of the incident.

The suspect is described as a white male, about 50 years

old with a husky build. He has short, dark hair and is balding. He is unshaven with a goatee and was wearing black pants and a black T-shirt.

He was described as "dirty looking," said a police press release.

The road where the woman was assaulted runs along a wooded area, Weeks said, and is "travelled heavily" by golf carts — the prime mode of transportation for the park.

■ ROBBERY

Eight males suspected

FROM PAGE 1

The two were walking north on the path and were approached by four males who were heading south toward them. At the same time, four other males approached the victims from behind.

The victims were robbed of their personal items. Police said one victim was assaulted but didn't indicate whether he required medical

attention.

Once the undiscovered items were handed over, the victims fled the scene.

Police said the eight males were described as white, average build, wearing baggy clothing.

The main suspect appeared to speak in a low-toned voice and had tattoos down his left arm, stopping at his wrist. The tattoos included a wing and tribal-

style art which included the colours of yellow, red and black.

Police are asking anyone with information that can be submitted anonymously using Crime Stoppers of Niagara. To leave an anonymous tip, contact Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.niagaratips.com; or by text at 274637 (CRIMES), with keyword "Niagara," then the tip.

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portraits

■ **SCRAPPED:** Port Colborne company to salvage subs

Subs nearing end of journey

MARYANNE FIRTH
inPort News Staff

HALIFAX — Just as they did during active duty, the Olympus and Okanagan continue to slip silently along Canada's waterways.

These days, however, they're not doing so unnoticed.

After all, it's difficult to miss the 1,250-tonne submarines that are taking a voyage from Halifax to Port Maitland — especially when they're travelling above the water.

Taken out of service by the Canadian Department of National Defence, the former submarines are being transported on floating drydocks and barges. At the end of the journey, they'll meet their fate.

The Oberon class submarines are scheduled to be scrapped by Port Colborne-based Marine Recycling Corp., at the company's Port Maitland shipyard.

Now it's just a matter of getting them there.

The Olympus, which was never officially commissioned, has already made the trek to Hamilton, where it sits awaiting the next stage of its voyage. It is expected to travel through the locks of the Welland Canal within the next few weeks to its final destination.

The Okanagan, still in Halifax, has been loaded and prepped for its travels. It was expected to leave on Thursday and arrive in Hamilton on Aug. 16 or 17.

"We're all ready to go, just waiting for the weather," Wayne Elliott, MRC's director of business development, told The Tribune over the phone from Halifax.

Heddlie Marine Service and McKell Marine Ltd., both of Hamilton, were commissioned by MRC to lift and tow the subs from Halifax to Port Maitland.



Supplied Photo

The Olympus is one of two Oberon class submarines from the Canadian Department of National Defence that are to be recycled by Marine Recycling Corp., of Port Colborne.

Once both in Hamilton, the submarines will be refloated and placed on other barges for their transit through the canal. Upon their arrival in Port Maitland, they will be recycled while aboard the barges.

The project, which comes with a \$4.5 million price tag, is expected to be completed in early spring, Elliott said.

Though it is going to be a challenge, he said it's a project the company is excited to take on and very much looking forward to.

"It's another win for the little guys in Port Colborne," he said with a laugh, adding he's always pleased to see work come to the area.

While much of these pieces

of Canadian military history are being recycled, there are portions of the subs that will be preserved.

MRC plans to take the tops of the submarines, including the conning towers, to Derek Point Memorial Gardens in Port Colborne, where they will be on display. The company built the park, which also contains nautical pieces from various Great Lakes freighters, about eight years ago.

The submarine pieces will be placed to look as though one is submerging and the other surfacing.

When they are put into place, Hamilton will also place sections of the Fraser — a Canadian designed and built

Laurentian class destroyer — in the park. The Fraser was recycled by the company in 2010.

About 100 tonnes from each submarine and the destroyer will be used at the park, located where the old Welland Canal meets the newest canal, to create the vessel exhibits.

Once completed, likely by next summer, the exhibits will be dedicated in memory of three local business leaders, whose names have yet to be announced, as well as in honour of the Canadian Navy, which celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, Elliott said.

"It's important to have reminders of our naval his-

tory. We have a great naval history in Canada," he added.

Prior to MRC taking possession of the Okanagan and Olympus, items holding historical significance were removed and donated to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax for preservation, said DND public affairs officer Jocelyn Sweet.

DND considers all possible options when disposing of its assets, she said, adding financial, environmental and security considerations are made before an option is chosen.

"The department selects the most appropriate option for each asset on a case-by-case basis."

Elliott is pleased MRC is

Service details

Both the Okanagan and Olympus are of the Oberon class.

Particulars of the class:
Length: 90 metres; **Beam:** 8.1 metres

Draught: 5.5 metres
Speed: surfaced, 22 km/h; submerged, 31 km/h

Crew: six officers, 62 crew
Armament: six 21-inch bow tubes, two 21-inch short stern tubes for homing torpedoes.

OKANAGAN

Commissioned in Chatham, U.K., on June 22, 1968.

Underwent a Submarine Operational Update Program in 1985. It was fitted with new fire control, sonar, communications and optical equipment, as well as new batteries that improved its endurance.

In October and November 1990, she undertook a cruise on the Great Lakes — the first Canadian submarine to do so. Decommissioned in 1998.

OLYMPUS

Built in England in 1960.

Acquired by the Canadian Navy in 1969, it served as a training vessel in Halifax.

It was never officially commissioned by the Canadian Forces.

able to preserve pieces of Canada's marine heritage locally. He has high hopes the park will provide joy to residents and visitors of all ages for years to come.

Until then, Elliott is encouraging marine enthusiasts and those simply interested in catching an unusual sight, to keep their eyes peeled over the next few weeks for the subs as they travel along the canal.

He's keeping his fingers crossed that the journey through local waterways takes place during daylight hours.

INPORT NEWS

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Our view

Out with the old, in with the new

Sometime within the next few weeks, two former Canadian submarines will pass through the Welland Canal and the city.

The subs — the Olympus and Okanagan — are to be scrapped by Port Colborne-based Marine Recycling Corp. at the company's Port Maitland shipyard.

Marine Recycling Corp. is no stranger to ship breaking. The company has been plying that vassels for years in Port Colborne on the east pier of the canal, and now in Port Maitland.

The two former naval subs, one of which was used as a training sub, are to be taken apart and recycled. However, portions of each will be preserved and taken to Derek Point Memorial Gardens in Port Colborne, where they will be on display. The company built the park, which also contains nautical pieces from various Great Lakes freighters, about eight years ago.

The subs, along with pieces of the former Canadian destroyer Fraser, will be placed in the park where the old Welland Canal meets the lake and sea.

It's from that park that people will be able to see the newest ship on the Great Lakes, which will have already made its way through the Welland Canal this week.

Algoma Central Corp.'s M.V. Algoma Mariner, built at Chongzi Shipyard in China, will pass through the Welland Canal sometime Wednesday evening.

This Seaway-max Coastal Class self-unloader vessels is the second to be delivered to Algoma this year and represents the newest in technology.

Algoma said the vessel is powered by a single, slow-speed engine which provides excellent fuel efficiency. Combined with a controllable pitch propeller and a modern advanced control system that interprets the power demand from the bridge, the ships responds with the most efficient combination of engine speed and propeller pitch at any given load. It creates significant improvement in performance compared to other vessels currently in Algoma's bulk carrier fleet.

Ship-builders used the latest in technology to make the other parts of the ship more efficient as well. All of the waste streams are managed and treated onboard. City wastes managed by an Integrated Bilge Water Treatment System, which includes an efficient oily water treatment system. Waste streams of grey and black water are treated in a Marine Sanitation Device. The device uses a membrane filter to remove virtually all bacteria and produce an effluent that is significantly below the latest required standards.

More efficient ships like this lead to a cleaner environment, which is good for everybody.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

When I was a kid summer vacation seemed to last forever. That was a good thing. Getting up whenever you felt like it. Watching some morning cartoons. Heading out to find some friends and see what they're up to. It was a really hot day you'd always call on the guy who had a pool.

On some summer evenings all the kids in the neighbourhood would get together, kids of various ages, to play kick the can or a loosely organized game of soccer or softball.

When I got older I'd have a summer job working construction with my dad. But after supper my friends and I would be making phone calls to see what was up. If it was Tuesday night we'd probably go to a movie.

Back then they were known as \$2.50 Tuesdays so we took advantage of a cheap movie night. Growing up in Burlington, on another night we might hang out at a lakeside park, go out for ice cream, or drive to Hamilton and hang out at the mountain brow. Sometimes we'd head to Toronto and catch a concert at

the Ontario Place Forum (free with park admission).

Wow, just thinking about those days... they really were carefree days. I wonder what happened to some of those kids, some of those friends, I married one of them but I lost touch with so many of them. I wonder what a reunion would be like, if we could even pull one off.

It's not so easy to do. Last summer we tried to get together with a couple of my cousins and their families. It's not like those days when you'd get on the phone after supper and in an hour you were all hanging out at a park somewhere. These days are filled up with appointments and commitments and you have to pull out a calendar and check dates weeks and months in advance. What happened?

Was that all just a part of growing up? When this appears in the paper there will be two and a half weeks of summer vacation left before school starts. Now it's time to cram in all the things you hoped you would get around to this summer but haven't managed to do yet. You wanted to have one family over for a barbecue. You wanted to get together with another family down at the beach. As I've been reminiscing about summers past, about friendships that just kind of faded

away, about a sense of community and neighbourhood that I'm not sure exists anymore, that's what I'd like to have back, what I'd like to cram back into summer.

But we can't recreate what we had in our childhood or teen years, or even last year. Life goes on, time passes, things change, people change. We grow up and grow old(er). And the changes we experience are not necessarily for the worse.

Now and then I have to remind myself not to pine for what used to be but to be thankful for the life I have now. So often we long for the good old days but in our longing we only remember the good things and forget the struggles and the hurt that we also lived through.

I married one of those girls who used to hang out with the gang at the park. We love each other more today than we ever did. We've got four awesome kids. I've got a great job. I lost touch with some of those friends from years ago but I've made some good new friends.

And while we can't bring back the good old days what we can do is work to make these new days as good as we can make them. And I'll cram as much summer fun into these last two and a half weeks as I can.

readers' views

Skuta fundraiser a success

We would like to thank each and every person and business who helped make Kim Skuta's benefit a success.

There are no true words that can be spoken or written to let everyone know how it feels to have such a tremendous outpouring of support to help someone you love to continue to live.

Thank you all for helping Kim fight a little longer.

Special thanks to Carol and Bill Bruyere for use of Beebeef hall, the advertising sign and their time; to Sue Brown, coordinator; Randy Thomas for the entertainment; Rocco Arlotta for the sign; an anonymous sign donor and food donors; Sobey's Port Colborne; Super Markets; Lucy's Cafe; Courtney Stone; Kerlie and Grilly Judy's Bakery; Ragazzini's Bakery; Chuck Simpson; Karl Mizsak; Kim Martie; Karen Gagnon; Denise, door prize donors; Tanja Schwed; Lorna Panton; Wendy and Cathy Twedy; Cathy at the Country Kettle; Photography by Pamela; Nautical Adventures.

Thank you to all the Port Colborne, Welland, Port Erie, Niagara Falls businesses, family and friends for the raffie prizes. There was such an outpouring of

donations that there are too many to name individually. We would like to express our gratitude to each and every one of you.

Thank you to all that gave personal donations. This will help to keep the fight going.

Thanks to all the volunteers of friends and family who were there from the beginning and special thanks to the ones that just stepped in.

To all in attendance, there is no greater gift, than the gift of Love.

Linda Ridgway
Port Colborne

Thanking Canal Days supporters

I want to thank all the Canal Days visitors who stopped by and supported our fourth annual Fokkens Tax Service Charity Fundraiser, held July 30-August 1. Through the sale of refreshments, a total of \$1,700 was raised for Port Colborne's Reach Out and Changing Lives campaign. A special thank you goes out to Scotiabank, Port Colborne branch who sponsored our event and St. Patrick's Church for the use of their parking lot.

Rick Fokkens
Owner, Fokkens Tax Service

Thanks from museum

Come and gone are Canal Days and the crowds that came with it, and we would like to thank this opportunity to thank all of those who supported our most recent Canal Days celebration here at the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum.

We were privileged to have many guests at the museum who helped make the event the success it was.

We had model boats and crafters, as well as children's games and reenactors. Niagara Antique Power had their machines set up and if the workers and volunteers weren't walking around in Canal Days t-shirts, they were seen in traditional turn of the century clothing.

It is our honour to say thanks to our generous sponsors, Raw Materials Inc. who sponsored our Canal Days T-shirts, as well as Business Express, who donated the ink for our printing press. We would also like to thank the press for covering the events.

Continued on page 5

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■ readers' views

FROM PAGE 4

Last but surely not least we would like to thank all our dedicated volunteers. It was such a successful weekend and it could have gone better.

Michelle Mason
Port Colborne Historical
and Marine Museum
assistant curator

There are property rights

We read the several articles on Wainfleet matters in your July 29 issue and thank you for your ongoing coverage of Wainfleet council meetings. Particular interest is noticeable in general discussion in the areas of Wainfleet not covered by the "boil water advisory". The area not covered, as you know, is the much larger part of Wainfleet, the second largest municipality in area of the Niagara Region.

The interest remains on the why and how the Wainfleet township may assume the authority to tax or fee (just another tax) property

owners not falling under the "boil water advisory". The comment of a municipal manager for a search of properties, which might not meet the BWA for the affected area not only appears to be request for a long-term program, is also a significant extension of Wainfleet municipal authority beyond its mandate and into personal property rights.

Contrary to the thinking of some people, there is property rights inherently guaranteed in the Canadian Constitution. A discussion on this would be a beneficial and informative dialogue. However, the task now at hand is a presumption of authority by Wainfleet employees for an extended programme, where there is not an apparent need or desire by the taxpayers.

A further item of concern is the hiring of additional staff for this project. Twenty years ago, the managing personal of Wainfleet, with only a few hundred less residents, consisted of a clerk/treasurer; a roads and

ditches superintendent; a planner; and a chief building official. It is my understanding the Wainfleet taxpayers now pay for a chief administrative officer; a clerk of the township; a treasurer; a director of operations and I am not aware of the number of supervisors also required.

The questions by the present members of council should include:

1. why additional staff is required. By this the building of another fieldwork?

2. what is the authority the Wainfleet municipal government has to enter private property and search for problems in an area not covered by a health concern or in response to a complaint by an affected resident.

3. will there be a reduction in regional assessment for Wainfleet taxpayers if Wainfleet assumes for a service formerly provided by regional government.

4. why is this programme being established as a permanent programme. Please refer to part b) of question 1.

It is proper the health concerns are corrected BWA by isolating the offending properties and enforcing the repair. Recognition at council of this needed change is now possible because of the political will at higher levels of government, initiated by the tragedy in Walkerton almost a decade ago. Thank you for an opportunity to bring these thoughts forward.

Michael McCallion
Wainfleet

Time for a change in representation

When NDP Member of Provincial Parliament Peter Korman said that he wouldn't be running in the Oct. 6 Ontario election, people

started to look for other options.

With more and more people being upset with Premier Dalton McGuinty, it is becoming more obvious that the Ontario Liberals have a slim chance at staying in government.

I know that as a resident of this riding, families like mine have struggled over the years and are in need of change. With the new NDP candidate for Welland just having been picked, I ask my fellow residents — Who is prepared and who is going to deliver for us?

Several weeks ago, PC candidate Dominic Ursini came to my door saying that he and his party led by Niagara's Tim Hudak, were planning to bring change for me and my family.

Living in Welland, their plan to help out small business and remove the HST tax on climbing hydro

ills gives me relief. The PC's Change-Book will decrease unemployment in an area that knows it too well. In addition to that, Ursini's track record as city councillor in Port Colborne shows that he always stands up for his constituents.

What's sticking out in my mind is this — what party will gain the most support in the next election? Quite frankly it is time for McGuinty's over-taxing government to go, and the NDP won't be able to win.

Hudak has real potential on Oct. 6 and I want to live where my voice is heard as part of the government. I want someone representing us locally that gets to sit at the table and influence decisions. Having a PC MPP representing Welland means that we will have a voice in government and we will see change happen.

Denise Christie
Welland

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■ COLUMN

Showboat season winding down

LINDSAY COSTELLO
Special to InPort News

While summer is coming to a close, Showboat Festival Theatre has time for one more voyage.

A heartwarming comedy will close out the company's 25th season as the theatre houses its production of *Mending Fences* this month.

Having premiered on Aug. 18, the show tells the story of a father and son who are unexpectedly reunited following 13 years of separation. The pair reconnects throughout the story, allowing them to go on a journey of self-discovery in the process.

Although the production warrants laughs, it is one of this year's more serious takes. Artistic director Thom Currie describes the play as being relating to audiences and feels audience members could see a bit of themselves within the characters.

Mending Fences adds even more variety to this year's program and is a departure from the season's previous productions in which actors gave audiences a romantic comedy, a thriller and a musical.

The show stars Showboat veterans Nicholas Rice and Astrid VanWieren along with newcomer Brady VanVaerenbergh,



Nicholas Rice, Astrid VanWieren and Brady VanVaerenbergh star in Showboat Festival Theatre's production of *Mending Fences*, which opened on Aug. 18.

who completed his theatre training three years ago. The cast is challenged with the task of playing multiple characters throughout the show.

"It's a little more open concept," said Currie of the set for this production. Set designers were able to incorporate multiple scenes within one set and use lighting to help distinguish between the different areas.

VanWieren said the show's title speaks volumes of the story. For her, Mending Fences means moving forward in life and feels that is what the characters are working towards as the story progresses.

Mending Fences will remain open at the Roselawn Centre for three weeks before it concludes on Sept. 3.

For ticket information, visit

www.showboattheatre.ca or call 905-834-0833.

"I think it's going to be a good capter to the 25th season," said Currie.

ESA'S EXHIBIT

Local art is on display once again at Arts Place Gallery.

Port Colborne resident Esa created the current exhibit, *Expressions Of His Art*, which is his first ever at the King St. gallery. The display consists of new pieces and features a variety of landscapes.

Having been introduced on July 14, the exhibit comes to a close on Aug. 28 and now features a new element.

Esa is now offering a sealed bid auction to give art buyers a chance to purchase his pieces for less than the original price.

Joey Honsberger, gallery founder and coordinator, said

this is the first time such an auction has been held during an exhibition and that she is considering introducing similar elements into future showings such as draws to incite interest from the community. She will hold her own exhibit of paintings and sculptures beginning Sept. 1.

Honsberger said that in addition to his exhibit, Esa will also teach a painting class at the gallery on Oct. 22. "He is very experienced and very good at instructing," she said.

Those interested in participating in this workshop can call 905-834-9000 for more information.



LINDSAY COSTELLO
InPort News Photo

Local artist Esa created the horse painting that hangs on the sign outside of Arts Place Gallery. It was added to the sign to tie in with the collection of homestead horses appearing on Main St. in recent months.

■ COLUMN

Dogs competing for top honors

In our area we are lucky enough to have three all-breed dogs shows each year. The St. Catharines and District Kennel and Obedience Club is holding their three day show this coming weekend on Friday, August 19, Saturday, August 20 and Sunday, August 21 at the Beamsville Fair Grounds. Here is a chance for you to come out and watch your favourite breeds of dogs compete for top honours.

A dog show is like a beauty contest for dogs. The judges pick the dogs that they think are the most beautifully built and that can move the most smoothly.

Only registered dogs can compete and they must be pre-entered two weeks before the show. Dogs will be judged each day by a different set of judges.

Spectators are welcome and there is a small charge for admission. Your own dogs can not be brought into the show grounds so it's a good idea to leave them at home. Children are welcome but must be closely supervised. Dogs can not be patted unless their handler is asked and they agree to let



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

their dogs be touched.

Much work and time goes into getting the dog's coat perfect for the show with every hair in place. Also handlers prefer to answer questions once they are finished showing their dogs. So if you wish to chat with the exhibitors, wait until they return to the grooming and kenneling area.

Many breeders will carry their business cards with them to give out to spectators. So you can then phone and visit their kennels at a later date.

Also, a judging schedule is available for you when you enter the show site. It will give you a list of the breeds of dogs entered each day, how many, which ring they will show in, and an approximate time to see them in the ring each day.

The dog show will go on rain or shine and it is an outdoor set up so plan for the weather. You are allowed to bring lawn chairs. Food and drinks are also available at the show site. So come on out any or all days to enjoy the show and see if you can spot me and my Tibetan Spaniels on Sunday in Ring #2 around noon. Win or lose we will be out there having fun.

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■ **DECISION:** Courts to decide dogs' fate

Port woman fights to get her dogs back

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — "All I want are my dogs back."

The ownership of two chow-lab mixed dogs is now up to the courts to decide as Port Colborne resident Debbie Mulleboom fights for custody of the animals from Welland and District Humane Society.

The dogs were picked up July 28 by the humane society after they were caught running through the neighbourhood on McRae Ave. Mulleboom alleges a neighbour had unlatched a gate from her backyard to free the dogs.

They interrogated me like a criminal. It was like they were trying to get me mad. I just want my dogs back."

Debbie Mulleboom, dog owner

"The humane society said the dogs were vicious and were barking at a lady. That's all hearsay," Mulleboom said. "They are six-month-old puppies. They have never escaped before. They were quarantined for 10 days."

After the 10 days had passed, the dogs were released to Mulleboom, but recently the dogs escaped her custody and again picked up by the humane society.

Mulleboom said she was told by humane society officials she had to pay a \$500 fine before the dogs would be given back to her. Being on a fixed income and waiting for a disabilities cheque to clear, Mulleboom didn't have the money readily available to pay the fine.

"They interrogated me like a criminal," Mulleboom alleged. "It was like they were trying to get me mad. I just want my dogs back."

With very little aid options available to her, Mulleboom turned to the office of Welland MPP Peter Kormos for help. Kormos' constituency assistant Mike Haines talked to Mulleboom and talked to humane society officials about

reducing the fine amount because she was on a fixed income.

Haines said he was told by the humane society it was an ongoing issue with Mulleboom and there was nothing they could do unless she paid the fine.

"They gave me a hard-line answer," Haines said. "I asked for compassion and they said no."

"I think they need to give her a break."

Haines also turned to the City of Port Colborne for help. In an e-mail response to Haines, Peter Senese, director of community and corporate services, said while the humane society enforces the dog bylaw, the organization operates independently regarding housing of animals and fees changes.

Senese noted there is a long history between Mulleboom and the humane society.

John Greer, executive director of the humane society, said one of Mulleboom's dogs had attacked a lady in the neighbourhood. When the humane society officer arrived at her house on the matter, Greer said the officer had seen the dog on the street.

"It was a matter of public safety that they had to be picked up," Greer said. "We've had over 30 complaints with muzzle orders. She has to keep her dogs contained. We've tried to work with her, but you have to think of the safety of people on the street." In April 2010, the humane society had picked up a dog previously owned by Mulleboom after it had escaped from her backyard. Mulleboom was told to pay a \$350 fine at the time because the dog's tags had expired.

Because Mulleboom could not come up with the money, the dog was put up for adoption. She was also fined for other dogs she's owned running loose in the neighbourhood.

Greer said the matter is now in the hands of provincial court where a judge will decide whether Mulleboom will get to keep her dogs. For now Kia and Molly will remain at the humane society shelter.



EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Debbie Mulleboom holds up a picture of her six-month-old dogs, Kia and Molly. The dogs are in the custody of the Welland and District Humane Society until a court decides their fates.

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C. Difficile

Recently, there has been numerous Niagara residents deaths due to a C. Difficile infection. Since there has been a recent outbreak, it is important to know about the bacteria and also what you can do to prevent infection.

C. Difficile is a bacteria that lives and grows in the small intestine and colon and is found primarily in the feces. The main ways to get the infection include use of antibiotics and person-to-person contact.

Transmission from person to person occurs when a person's hands are contaminated and transferred through touch and/or contaminated objects. This is why it is extremely important not only in hospitals and long term care facilities but anywhere you go, to wash your hands. People should wash their hands with warm soap and water for at least 15 seconds, getting under the fingernails and in between fingers. Bacteria can be trapped in jewelry so it is important to take off jewelry when washing your hands and also wash jewelry separately everyday. Wash your hands prior to preparing a meal, after using the washroom, before eating and after touching dirty surfaces. Other things that you can do at home include cleaning the house using all purpose house cleaner, paying particular attention to the toilet and sink, also cleaning clothes thoroughly, especially under garments in hot water cycle and high heat dryer.

People who are more likely to be infected with C.difficile are the elderly, people who have recently been taking antibiotics and anyone who has any serious medical conditions or is in poor health. Antibiotics work by destroying bacterial infections in our bodies and as a result, they also kill off protective "good" bacteria. Our good bacteria works as a defense to help fight off any infection and to keep our bodies healthy. When you kill off protective bacteria through antibiotics C. Difficile thrives where it produces toxins causing damage and illness, primarily in the bowels (intestines and colon). In order for the doctor to determine if you are infected they take a sample of your feces and test for the bacteria. C.difficile produces a diarrhea that has a characteristic terrible smell and is often green in colour. (It is more severe in smell and quantity than is caused by most routine antibiotic use.) Clindamycin is one of the antibiotics more commonly associated with causing C. difficile. A prolonged duration of antibiotic use can also increase your chance of contracting C.difficile.

Besides watery diarrhea other symptoms may include fever, abdominal pain and tenderness. In most cases, C. difficile can be treated with antibiotics, however in severe cases it can cause serious illness that may require surgery or even result in death.

If you suspect you or a loved one is infected with C.difficile contact your family practitioner regarding the best way to proceed for diagnosis and treatment.

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■ DOGS: People afraid



EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Molly and Kia, two chow-lab mixes are kept in quarantine at the Welland and District Humane Society.

Loose dogs a safety concern for neighbours

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Who let the dogs out?

According to neighbours of Port Colborne resident Debbie Muelleboom, Molly and Kia, two chow-lab mixed dogs that are currently quarantined at the Welland and District Humane Society, have been a cause for concern of safety ever since she got the dogs last fall.

Residents living on McRae and neighbouring Christmas, Cross, Bell and Killaly streets are all too familiar with seeing Muelleboom's dogs wandering in the neighbourhood.

Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet lives two doors down from the Muelleboom home and said it's not safe to have the dogs wandering in the neighbourhood.

"I was in my yard and one of them was behind me growling one day," Doucet said. "The dogs are always getting through the gate and out and about. They are out at least once a week."

Doucet said one of his neighbours is a elderly woman with a German shepherd and Muelleboom's dogs were once found in the woman's backyard. Fearing for her and her dog's safety, the neighbour guided Muelleboom's dogs back to their home.

"She had written a letter (to Muelleboom) asking her to take care of the dogs but there's nothing (response)," Doucet said. "The dogs chase and growl at people. My grandchildren who live a block away are afraid to come over when the dogs are out."

Doucet has evidence of Molly and Kia wandering the neighbourhood, which includes pictures and affidavits from neighbours who have witnessed the dogs escape.

A petition has also gone around the neighbourhood calling for Muelleboom to control her dogs.

"There's about 50 signatures from the neighbourhood on the petition," said neighbour Bonnie Curcio. "I'm concerned

about the safety of people especially the kids."

John Greer, executive director of the Welland and District Humane Society had previously said a resident in the neighbourhood had been attacked by one of the dogs. Curcio said the woman was walking to the store on July 10 when the dog barked and attacked her.

"It's getting pretty bad," Curcio said.

Curcio said the neighbourhood was once peaceful. But once the dogs started getting loose it isn't safe to walk around, she said.

"We just want things back to the way things were," he said.

The petition and all documents pertaining to the dogs were given to City of Port Colborne officials, and were later transferred to the humane society for appropriate action.

Muelleboom had her two dogs taken away by the humane society last week and is awaiting a court decision on whether or not she can keep the animals.

■ **COST:** Banners to run just over \$20,000



File Photo

Street banners, like the one shown here, are currently in production that will feature photos of activities and amenities that contribute to Port Colborne's character.

Banners set to hang

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Main St. will soon showcase all that Port Colborne has to offer.

Street banners are currently in production that will feature photos of activities and amenities that contribute to the lake-side city's character.

Beaches, fishing, shipping and recreation, among others, will be depicted on the banners that will line the prominent Port Colborne roadway.

It was decided by council at the end of April that the banner project would move forward, some banners will include only the photos, some the addition of words such as recreation or fishing, and others will include the new "Uncharted, Unexpected" branding the city has taken on.

All banners will include the Port Colborne logo at the bottom as well as the area's branding as Niagara's South Coast.

After receiving council approval, staff sought competitive pricing to have the banners produced. Dan Aquilina, the city's director of planning and development, told council recently.

Two quotes were received for the exact same amount, Aquilina said, adding it was a rare occurrence to have two identical bids come in.

To decide which company to award the project to, staff asked each to submit a sample of the banner material to determine which seemed most durable, he said.

Work was ultimately awarded to Markham-based Classic Displays for \$20,125. The banners are now in production.

They're expected to be installed on city streets "sooner than later," Aquilina said.

Staff believe the banners, which are weather-resistant, can be left up until November or December and then put away until early spring, he added.



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■ **YELLOW WINGS:** Vintage war planes make stop in Pelham

Fleet of yellow safely lands at airport

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — Tony Wilson had no problem sticking his head in front of a propeller of a Fleet Finch plane last Thursday.

There was nothing to worry for the St. Catharines resident though, as the plane wasn't

in operation. Taking a closer look at it, Wilson marveled at how well maintained the vehicle's parts were. Every nook and cranny of the plane was spotless, right down to the smallest nut and bolt.

A self-proclaimed airplane enthusiast along with his wife, Judy, Wilson said as a young lad growing up in

England he was surrounded by planes.

"I was in the air training corps in England where I would always see Royal Air Force and U.S. Air Force bombers during the (Second World) war," Wilson said. "I couldn't help but be interested."

As a student, Wilson had

a summer job at an airport where he got to see planes everyday. The love for planes flourished from there.

Getting a chance to see planes from his childhood, especially the Finches, brought back memories for Wilson.

"It's rare you get to see so many of them at one time,"

Wilson said.

On Thursday, a fleet of 10 planes were on display on the runway at Niagara Central Airport. The bright yellow planes of various models — including Harvards, Fleet Finches and Tiger Moths — flew 70 years ago as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan during the

Second World War.

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan was a large joint military training program for pilots from England, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. About 210,000 pilots, engineers and navigators at 50 training facilities across the country were involved.



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■ **FUN FLY:** Remote controlled aircraft take to the sky

Model planes take flight

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET— Spitfires, P-51 Mustangs, a DC3, a few stunt planes and a jet took to the skies above a Wainfleet field last Saturday.

They performed all kinds of aerial acrobatics, from stunts, such as barrel rolls, loops and low-level inverted passes over the field, that left the crowd "goggling and aching."

But their pilots never left the ground. Instead they were behind an orange fence, controlling their planes remotely.

A couple dozen or so hobbyists were taking part in the Rose City Model Flyers' annual Fun Fly at Marshville Airpark, off of Feeder Rd., in Wainfleet.

In addition to hobbyists and their families, there were also a number of onlookers watching the planes fly and perform moves that many real planes couldn't.

Bob Gunter, president of the 35-member Welland club, said a number of members from a St. Catharines club came down to take part in the annual event.

Gunter said even when there's no fun fly, members can be found at the field every

nice day, either in the morning or later in the afternoon.

"I've been flying planes on and off for about 30 years," he said.

When Gunter left the hobby for a period, he bought a full-size plane and got into plane restoration with Bruce Macfitchie of the Welland Aero Center, at Niagara Central Airport.

He and others said flying the planes is relaxing and a great hobby.

Though it is a relaxing hobby, Gunter said there are some strict rules to be followed to ensure everyone's safety. There's a fence between the spectators and planes and then the orange fence, the flight line, where the planes are controlled from.

Beyond that fence is the field where the planes take-off, land and perform their stunts or just fly, above. No one is allowed behind this fence.

Gunter said being hit by some of the model planes would be exactly like getting hit by a full-size one.

One plane actually crashed just behind the orange fence, the flight line, close to a couple of photographers.

Dave McKay, who was



ABOVE: Peter Hildebrandt, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, gets his 1/5th-scale P-51 Mustang ready before flying it at Rose City Model Flyers Marshville Airpark in Wainfleet, as Mike Bortolin, of Niagara Falls, holds the plane.

RIGHT: Peter Hildebrandt watches his 1/5th-scale P-51 Mustang fly by.

trol of it.

"I went down into the volcano to get it back," said Cook, adding he was told later he was lucky to come out alive due to poisonous gases in the crater.

It was also the first time a remote controlled plane flew, including stunts, in a volcano. Cook's designed, built

and flown more than 50 of his own planes and has been involved with them since the mid-'60s.

Welland's Nick Sousa has had a plane crash after it couldn't recover out of a dive and he's had a mid-air collision.

see **MODEL PLANES** | page 13



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Dave McKay's remote controlled Spitfire gets ready to take off at Rose City Model Flyers Marshville Airpark in Wainfleet.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
A remote control jet plane sits on the ground at Rose City Model Flyers during a fun fly at Marshville Airpark in Wainfleet.

■ MODEL PLANES



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos

ABOVE: Nick Sousa, of Welland, gets his Rearwin Speedster ready for flight.

RIGHT: Peter Hildebrandt's 1/5th-scale P-51 Mustang takes off.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos

ABOVE: Nick Sousa, of Welland, watches his Rearwin Speedster fly.

RIGHT: Rose City Model Flyers held a fun fly at Marshville Airport in Wainfleet.

Love of flying brings pilots together

FROM PAGE 12

Sousa has been flying various remote-controlled planes for 30 years and currently has five in his collection. The one he was flying on Saturday was a model of a plane from the 1930s.

"It's a Rearwin Speedster," he said.

Rearwin Airplanes built the Speedsters but they had a design flaw in them.

"They couldn't recover out of dives," said Sousa, adding the planes killed pilots.

He said the company ended up going under before it could fix the planes.

Sousa's model flew flawlessly over the field and had a perfect landing.

"It's very relaxing ... a great hobby," he said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Peter Hildebrandt has been involved with remote-controlled planes since 1979. On Saturday, he flew a 1/5th-scale P-51 Mustang, a famous American fighter plane from the Second World War.

"It has a 40-cc chainsaw motor and the propeller is belt-driven. It has retractable landing gear," Hildebrandt said, adding the plane has a bit of wear and tear having been flown for years.

The plane, he said before flying it, hits about 80 mph.

While that's fast, it doesn't compare with going 400 mph in an actual P-51 Mustang, which he's had a chance to do.

"It was the thrill of a lifetime," he said.

Gunter said the planes that were flown Saturday could be kits or hand-made, depending on what the person wanted. He pointed out Bob Johnson, whose hand-built a plane after scaling up a design by 30%. The large plane was made out of aircraft grade aluminum.

Johnson has been involved in the hobby for 14 years on and off and said the plane took some time to build.

"I put 1,200 hours of labour into it," Johnson said.

Gunter said anyone is welcome to the field to watch the planes or attend a monthly meeting, the first Tuesday of the month from October to May. The club will help those who want to learn how to fly the planes. For more information, visit the club's website at www.rosecitymodelflyers.com or e-mail Bob Gunter at rgunter1@cogeco.ca.



I put 1,200 hours of labour into it."

Bob Johnson, model airplane pilot



■ **BUZZ:** Trend started by Frank Danch has spread

Horsing around spreads across Main St.

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE

— Giddy-up.
What started off as a joke with Ward 3 Coun. and Frank's Home Hardware owner Frank Danch, has now turned into an attraction and created a buzz along Main St. West.

In mid-June, Danch tied a cardboard horse named Happy, that he and his daughter made, to a bicycle rack outside his store as a statement to

the city.

He thought the bike racks were a waste because of signs along the street telling people not to bicycle on the sidewalk and the lack of bike lane on the road. He thought they looked like something you could tie a horse to. So he did.

"The majority of us are not happy with the lack of parking," he said, "It started as a joke..."

Before long the display outside of his store grew. He now has Eccentric, a wooden horse

who has a home beside Happy.

Danch also created Barry the Box Man who sits on a bench outside the store waving to passerby. He said it's funny to watch people waving to Barry and then realize he's cardboard.

When Danch began receiving criticism for Happy, Adam Ferri, owner of Thruway Muffler and Automotive, decided to build one, too. Ferri wasn't poking fun at the city, but supporting Danch and having some fun of his own. Mr. Ed, named after the 1950s television series about a talking horse, now sits in front of his shop, just up the road from Danch's. Mr. Ed is made out of exhaust parts.

"We did it just to be funny back," he said. "We even took him in the boat parade."

Across the street from Danch, Country Store and Kettle Grill owner Cathy Ellah, decided to put two horses out front of her store because she was also angry about the lack of parking and what she calls an over-done street that could have been done better and taken less time.

"What [Danch] said made sense," she said. "I'm the one with a horse rail out front."

Others, like Bridget George, owner of Bridget's Laundromat Pet Grooming, put her horse out, just to have fun. She thinks it's great that every horse represents the business it stands in front of. Her grooming table usually has a ceramic dog on top.

The Ezzo Station, owned



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Barry the Box Man sits on a bench in front of Frank Danch's Home Hardware on Main St. in Port Colborne waving at passerby.

by Jamie Jung, was horseless until her customers made a horse for her. The horse is made of a gas can, oil bottle and wooden legs. She said she had no idea why it was so popular, but thought it was great fun to participate.

Main Street Mable and rider Cece Bloom made their debut on the street in front of Shapes Hair and Body Care Centre on Thursday morning to have fun. Shapes' horse is one of the most elaborate on the street with a hair straight-

ener, curling iron, sun glasses, hair cutting smock and wig. Owner Stacie Lynds said the horses have built quite a buzz and she was having fun playing with the other business owners on the street.

"It's here to represent what we do," said Lynds.

Down the street at Family Shoe Store, owner Diana Chambers took her time putting her horse together. But now Boots gets its fair share of attention for wearing high heeled boots and many

assorted shoe styles. Although Chambers' business was hit hard during the construction she's happy it's over and thinks the horses are a great way to bring business back and make the tourists, who regularly stop to take photographs, laugh.

"It's fun, it adds some excitement after the streetscaping," she said.

If you want to see more, check out the Facebook group Horsing Around in Port Colborne.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Bridget's Laundromat Pet Grooming on Main St. in Port Colborne's horse with rider, a 11-year-old Golden Retriever named Hannah.

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■ **MAIN ST. WEST:** Mixed reactions from business owners

Negatives and positives about nearly-complete project

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Businesses and the city may have crossed wires when it comes to Main St. West.

A revitalization project began a year ago and all that remains, according to Ron Hanson, director of engineering and operations for the

city, are finishing touches on the weir bridge, like lookouts and decorative fencing.

But some business owners are unhappy with the finished product.

"If you look around there are signs that say, 'no bicycling on the sidewalk,' and there are no lanes, so what's with the bike (racks)?" Frank Danch, owner of Home

Hardware on Main St. and Ward 3 Coun. said.

Hanson said there were many opportunities for business owners to view the designs before construction began. There were community meetings and public forums, but in the end council approved the design.

see **BUSINESS** | page 15

www.inportnews.ca

■ BUSINESS

't's just mind-boggling how much it hurt the business'

FROM PAGE 14

He said there were "lengthy discussions" about bike lanes, but it was decided that the road wasn't wide enough to incorporate bike lanes.

"There's been negative comments and positive comments; as well the Business Improvement Association was directly involved in the process," he said. "At the time they were very supportive."

Stacie Lynds, owner of Shapes Hair and Body Care Centre, said she was happy the city had tried to improve the street because it did need

something, but she and others on the street are upset that they lost parking.

"I'll never be happy with taking away parking for businesses," she said. "It's more important to have functional uses than accessories and parking is paramount and functional."

Linda Sloat, president of



Dancho

the Port Colborne Gateway Business Improvement Association (BIA), was angry when told some people were unhappy. She's heard very positive reactions from everyone she had spoken to.

"It's fantastic, we went from 40 parking spots to over 140 spots" she said. "We added over 100 parking spots for people and I don't know how that can be a negative thing for people when it's paved and lit." Kelly Kortellos, owner of Flirt, agrees that the street is beautiful and she's looking on the bright side.

"I'm glad it's over. It's unfortunate they took away the street parking, but it's fortunate we have a lot of parking behind our stores," she said.

Sloat hadn't heard of busi-

nesses having trouble staying open during the construction.

But Diana Chambers, owner of Family Shoe Store, said it was very hard during construction and hopes a

back to school rush will help bring her back.

"We've started to recover," she said. "It's just mind-boggling how much it hurt the business."

■ INTERIM: Council to give final approval

New town crier has great voice

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Dr. Thomas Pekar is ready to shout his love for Port Colborne from the rooftops.

The St. Catharines dental surgeon has been appointed the lakeside city's interim town crier, replacing long-time crier Derek Miller, who resigned earlier this year.

Port Colborne chief administrative officer Bob Heil announced the appointment during last week's council meeting, praising Pekar for his "beautiful voice" and "impressive crying abilities."

"He is worthy of a full-time appointment," Heil said.

Pekar will perform at a future meeting where it will be decided whether he receives the city's official town crier title.

He will get plenty of practice this weekend while competing in the Ontario Guild of Town Criers Provincial Championship Competition in Bramford.

"It's a great learning opportunity," Pekar said, adding he was eager to be part of the event.

Crying is a hobby the 59-year-old has been interested in since he first experienced it 20 years ago at his period-costume wedding in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I'm doing this primarily for fun," he said, though he also finds meeting new people as good motivation.

"He is an ambassador of the city," Heil said Tuesday, adding he believed Pekar would well represent all that Port Colborne has to offer.

The role of town crier is an unpaid position, Heil said, though there is a \$2,500

budget for expenses related to the job.

With a few minor adjustments, the city's official town crier uniform will even likely fit Pekar. Heil said with a laugh, adding it was the cost of buying a new one.

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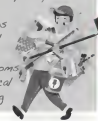
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